



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **Portland Business Owner Named SBA Oregon Small Business Person of the Year**

**Portland, Ore.** – Richard Baek, Founder of VTM, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon, is recognized as SBA's 2006 Oregon Small Business Person of the Year.

"Every year, SBA in Oregon selects a small business owner who symbolizes successful American entrepreneur," said SBA Oregon District Director Leon Milobar. "Richard Baek typifies creativity and commercial risk-taking. I am proud to say that he represents the best of entrepreneurship."

In 1995 at the age of 27, Richard Baek walked away from a promising career at Intel and founded VTM, Inc., a global marketing, communications and consulting firm serving some of the most successful organizations and influential technology initiatives in the world. Its core business units are Initiatives Management, Event Management, Engineering Management and Public Relations. The company's clients include more than 20 global technology organizations, comprised of the world's most recognizable computer and consumer electronics companies such as Intel, Microsoft and Samsung. From calculated risk-taking to the development of new services, VTM does what it takes to do the right thing, the first time, every time.

Rich Baek currently serves as president and chief consultant. He has more than 14 years experience in international business development, entrepreneurship and technical marketing. Rich established VTM to provide technical marketing and event management services to high-tech industry initiatives and groups. He has since added public relations and interoperability & compliance engineering to VTM's service offerings. Rich also wanted to build a successful, dynamic, fun place where his employees and he work every day to achieve their professional aspirations through dedication and hard work.

Rich has grown VTM, Inc. from a one-man, \$20,000 a year company in 1995 to 70 employees with revenues of \$7.8 million in 2005.

To accommodate the company's rapid growth, VTM purchased, remodeled and recently relocated to a 28,500 square foot office building in Beaverton, which more than doubles the size of its previous location.

**Besides recognizing the outstanding success of VTM, Inc., the following business owners and Champions are also honored:**

### **Oregon Financial Services Champion of the Year**

**James Hough, CPA  
Hough & MacAdam, LLC  
North Bend, Oregon**

Jim Hough is a partner in Hough & MacAdam, LLC, which is the largest full-service accounting firm on the South Coast of Oregon. Jim and his firm's support for small business is reflected in the many volunteer hours provided in developing

and instructing workshops through the Small Business Development Center in North Bend. These training sessions assist small business owners to run a healthy business by showing them how to understand their business records. Jim and the other fourteen full-time staff of Hough & MacAdam are very involved in the area community through activities with service clubs, charities, fundraisers and local schools.

## **Oregon Women in Business Champion of the Year**

**Robert W. Chizum, Member  
SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business”  
Portland, Oregon**

Bob Chizum has been a volunteer counselor with SCORE Chapter 11 for the past 4 years. He uses his 40 year background in retailing to provide concise and meaningful advice to existing and aspiring retailers, of which 65% are women. Bob developed a comfort level working with women early in his career because he learns from women. He recognizes and supports their affinity for the retail field. His commitment helping clients have viable and more profitable businesses is reflected in the high number of return visits by his clients. In addition to his business experience, Bob served on the Lake Oswego City Council in 1996.

## **Oregon Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year**

**Thompson’s Sanitary Service, Inc.  
Newport, Oregon**

Ken Thompson and his brother Neal started Thompson Sanitary Service, Inc. in 1963, when they won a competitive bid for the City franchise for the garbage collection in Newport. The Thompson brothers purchased the old equipment from the former service provider, which consisted of two Dodge 15 year open top dump trucks. Ken and his wife Agnes purchased their first Leach rear load garbage truck at that time. Two years later Ken & Agnes bought out Neal. They ran the business until 1981. At that time Bob Thompson, their son, and his wife Sandi purchased the company from Ken & Agnes.

Originally the business operated out of 9x10 ft. room in Ken & Agnes’ home. The business has relocated several times because of growth, and in 2001 operations were moved into a new 6,400 sq. ft. office off of Highway 101. Bob & Sandi have retired and the business is now actively managed by Ken Riley and Rob Thompson, members of the third generation.

Over the years the industry has gone through many changes. One year ago the family made a fundamental change to the collection of all its recycling on route for its customers, which required a very large investment of capital into trucks and roll carts. The customers responded in a tremendous way. As a result the business has grown and improved profitability while maintaining stable rates to its customer base, and the retention of 25 family wage jobs.

**In addition, the following have been selected as SBA 2005 Lenders of the Year for Oregon and SW Washington:**

**Lender of the Year—U.S. Bank**

**Certified Development Company of the Year—Evergreen Community Development Association**

**Minority Lender of the Year—U.S. Bank**

**District Director’s Award for Excellence—Twin City Bank**

“These awards are given in recognition of the lenders' outstanding efforts to support small businesses in Oregon and SW Washington. We are pleased to recognize and congratulate U.S. Bank, Evergreen Community Development Association and Twin City Bank for providing critical financial assistance to their small business customers,” said District Director Milobar.

For more information on all of SBA’s programs and services, visit our website [www.sba.gov/or](http://www.sba.gov/or)

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